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SECURITY INFORMATION

EASA- 842

Chief, EE  
Attn: J.C.  
Chief of Base, Salzburg

11 February 1953

Operational/GROOVY

GROSSBAHN - General Security

Reference: EASA - 819

1. The "other incident" which we made reference to in Para. seven of EASA-819 is as related herein.

2. Attached hereto is GROSSBAHN's unnumbered report, dated 18 December 1952, in which he describes some rather discouraging episodes which took place on the night of 17 December in the Dixie Espresso in Salzburg. Shortly after he submitted the report, we went over it in detail with him and pointed out that we felt that a bit more judicious, lucid thinking and action on his part would probably have extricated him from the two predicaments without their assuming the proportions which they did. We were especially critical of his conversation with OFFCZAREK and were somewhat bothered by the connotation of his trying to straighten out the boundaries between two spheres of jurisdiction.

3. On 16 December 1952, we did show GROSSBAHN a copy of ZIPPER BV S report number 5743, which had been passed to us by [ ]

[ ] Our reason for doing this was merely as a reminder to GROSSBAHN that he should not relax his security guard; he was still a figure of interest in the Salzburg area. He, incidentally, is mentioned in an extremely offhand manner in the report; the final paragraph merely stating that VOLLER previously worked for GROSSBAHN in the ZIPPER organization.

4. We are always extremely careful in handling KUBARK correspondence which must be brought to GROSSBAHN's attention and take pains to sterilize to the 10th degree. Due to the wealth of material which we are constantly taking up with GROSSBAHN, we have had little reason to sterilize the non-KUBARK material to the same extent. This was founded on two basic premises; there was no previous occasion to doubt GROSSBAHN's powers of discretion and the pure mechanical difficulties in sterilizing the voluminous non-KUBARK material which we constantly refer to him on almost a day to day basis.

5. Due to the fact that we had shown GROSSBAHN this report just the day prior to his meeting with OFFCZAREK, we closely questioned him

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at the same time we were discussing the report in general, as described in Para. 2, on his use of the terminology "I did not appreciate the publicity he had tried to give me" as mentioned in Para. 4. We suspected, but not too strongly at the time, that he might possibly have had reference to the ZIPPER report. He stated that he was harking back to the old days just after he separated from ZIPPER when he was the subject of much interest on the part of ZIPPER personnel in the Salzburg area. We, naturally, accepted his explanation and let the matter drop other than for the afordescribed security implications.

6. On 11 January 1953, [ ] on a liaison visit to Salzburg, advised us that OFFCZAREK's version differed considerably from that reported by GROSSBAHN. OFFCZAREK alleged that he had been accosted by GROSSBAHN and that GROSSBAHN had made specific reference to the EV 8 report in his discussion with OFFCZAREK. This naturally placed POB in a difficult position with ZIPPER due to an apparent violation of the third agency rule.

7. On 13 January, we re-questioned GROSSBAHN on his report of events on the night of 17 December, but he failed to alter his original version in any manner.

8. The truth of the matter, we suspect, lies somewhere between the two versions. The next opportunity we have to get GROSSBAHN on Carriage, we certainly will pursue the matter to its conclusion. For the time being, [ ] reports that the incident has apparently blown over with the ZIPPER people and we can only hope that time will relegate it to the group of forgotten matters.

9. Prior to this incident we had made up our minds that GROSSBAHN was badly in need of a rest and vacation and this lent considerable weight to our decision. As reported in reference, we had him checked medically and packed him off for a month without making any more of an incident of the OFFCZAREK affair. We could see little point in pursuing the matter to the point of getting unpleasant especially in view of his condition. On his return from vacation, we feel it best to let the matter ride and straighten it out later through the use of Carriage.

10. We, naturally, dislike having this shadow of a doubt hanging over GROSSBAHN and will do all we can to resolve it at the earliest opportunity.

CLU Comment: Whatever the precise truth of this incident may eventually develop to have been, we will of course in the future be forced to adopt a more stringent policy in written briefs

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to GROSSBAHN. However, we have never had any reason heretofore not to apply the generally accepted rule that AR 350-5 does not literally apply to agent briefing. It is extremely unfortunate that this is far more of a political than a security breach on GROSSBAHN's part, and [ ]

[ ] accepts the full responsibility in not having foreseen the possible repercussions of showing GROSSBAHN a BV S report in which he was mentioned. Insofar as ZIPPER is concerned, as we all know, GROSSBAHN has always until this incident displayed impeccable discretion from the time of his sensitive half-defector status with ZIPPER, through his reporting to FOB case officers on ZIPPER--the leader of BV S himself having been the subject of one such requested report, the [ ] Project, and the rest of his activities. In any event, the case officer showed GROSSBAHN the unsanitized BV S report at [ ] specific direction.

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